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# THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 26 JULY 2, 2007

**INSIDE**

**Young Socialists: Build U.S. Social Forum!**

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# Interest wide in U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta

**BY LISA POTASH**

ATLANTA—Activists throughout this city are significantly stepping up their efforts to build the U.S. Social Forum. The political gathering, which organizers expect will draw at least 10,000 from across the United States, as well as Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, will take place here June 27–July 1.

The slogan of the event is "Another world is possible; another U.S. is necessary." Atlanta was chosen as host, in part, because it is one of the cities where thousands of working people, in their majority Black, came to flee Hurricane Katrina and the social catastrophe that followed.

Fanning out across the city to build the forum, teams are leafleting and posting fliers in working-class neighborhoods like College Park. In April, 500 people marched through that suburb as part of the funeral procession for Ron Pettaway, a young African American who was killed by Fulton County police. Other targeted areas include the West End, one of the historic Black communities here,

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# *Protesters condemn 'la migra' raid in Oregon*

**BY EDWIN FRUIT AND CHRIS HOEPPNER**

PORTLAND, Oregon, June 16—About 160 Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents raided the Fresh Del Monte Produce plant here four days ago and arrested 167 workers. *La migra* also raided two offices of American Staffing Resources, the temporary agency that hires workers for Fresh Del Monte.

Some 70 people protested against the raid today outside the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, where the arrested workers are detained.

Facing off 10 members of the Minutemen, a rightist vigilante group that opposes legalization of undocumented immigrants, protesters chanted, "Stop the raids! Stop the deportations!" and "*¡Sí, se puede!*" (Yes, we can.)

*Militant* reporters visited the plant here this weekend and talked to workers, as well as to people in nearby neighborhoods.

Normally, about 600 people work

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# U.S. troops in Iraq launch brutal assault

## With blessing from U.S. Congress, Pentagon completes military escalation



Getty Images/Chris Hondros

**U.S. warplanes bomb palm fields in Baghdad June 17 as a Humvee blocks the highway. The next day, 10,000 U.S. troops launched a major offensive in nearby Baquba.**

**BY SAM MANUEL**

WASHINGTON, June 19—The U.S. military unleashed a major offensive involving 10,000 U.S. troops northeast of Baghdad yesterday. The military says its objective is to destroy al-Qaeda forces and Sunni-led militias associated with the former Saddam Hussein regime around the city of Baquba, the capital of Diyala province.

Operation Arrowhead Ripper, which

**Continued on page 3**

# Atlanta rally: 'End cruel, unusual punishment of young Black man'

## Georgia Atty. General appeals judge's release order

**BY BILL ARTH**

ATLANTA, June 14—About 200 people gathered on the steps of the State Capitol here today to demand freedom for Genarlow Wilson, a 21-year-old African American.

Wilson has served more than two years of a 10-year prison sentence, without the possibility of parole, for aggravated child molestation. He was convicted on that charge for engaging in consensual sex with a 15-year-old girl from his high school when he was 17.

On June 11, a Monroe County superior court judge ruled that Wilson's sentence violated the state constitution as cruel and unusual punishment. The judge changed Wilson's felony conviction to a misdemeanor, resentenced him to 12 months,

**Continued on page 4**

## SWP National Committee honors life of Cuban communist leader Vilma Espín

*The following is a message to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba sent June 20 by Jack Barnes, the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, on behalf of the SWP National Committee.*

Dear Comrades,

The National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party joins you in paying highest tribute to Vilma Espín Guillois. A courageous leader of the clandestine struggle, who along with Frank País set an example for all, and an outstanding combatant of the Rebel Army, Vilma was part of the generation of leaders forged in the battles that led to the revolutionary victory over the U.S.-backed Batista tyranny. That triumph opened the socialist revolution in the Americas and transformed world politics forever. The political leadership of women in that revolutionary struggle, exemplified by Vilma, was the weightiest of any popular revolution the world has yet known.

Vilma's decades-long leadership of the Federation of Cuban Women—which, together with the party she helped lead, fought for the conquests won by the revolution in the struggle for women's emancipation—sets a lasting example for the workers movement worldwide.

Her political contributions, in deed and in word, will be emulated by revolutionary-minded working people and youth, both women and men, in the sharpening struggles against the imperialist world order we all see approaching. This is the highest honor we can pay her.

s/*Jack Barnes*
for the SWP National Committee

# *Day laborers in N.Y. town win hiring hall in Black church*

**BY RÓGER CALERO**

MAMARONECK, New York, June 19—The Village of Mamaroneck Board of Trustees ratified a settlement June 11 that prohibits "police misconduct and discriminatory behavior towards day laborers," including banning routine police inquiry into the immigration status of these workers. The decision came on the heels of a victory in a lawsuit by day laborers against town officials and police for discriminating against them when they gather on street corners to look for work.



Militant/Róger Calero

**Day laborers in Mamaroneck, New York, learn English June 19 while waiting for jobs at Strait Gate Church, which has a majority Black congregation. The church now serves as hiring hall for day laborers, most of them Latino immigrants.**

The settlement of the lawsuit includes payment of $550,000 for legal fees to the attorneys who represented the workers. After the agreement, the day laborers established a hiring hall at a local church in the Black community, a rare occurrence.

"The court upheld the fact that immigrants have protection from harassment and discrimination," said Cesar Perales, president and general counsel of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. The group filed the suit on behalf of six day laborers in April 2006.

Last November, federal judge Colleen McMahon ruled that town officials had "engaged in a campaign designed to drive out the Latino day laborers." She ordered the two sides to settle.

"We are not under the anxiety of a cop or a neighbor harassing us," Diego Durán, 60, originally from Venezuela,

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# ‘Honeymoon is over,’ many liberals say about Democrats

**BY SAM MANUEL**

WASHINGTON, June 13—A flurry of news articles and editorials in liberal publications expressing “disappointment” at Congress’s approval of $100 billion for Washington’s wars in Afghanistan and Iraq highlight the demoralization of many on the left who had hoped the Democrats could be nudged toward ending the war. Many liberals are also disheartened at the Democrats’ failure to pass hardly any of their highly publicized social spending bills in the “first 100 hours” since they assumed majority control in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

“The Honeymoon Is Over,” was the headline of an editorial in the June 18 issue of the *Nation*, a liberal magazine. “The slim Democratic majority in both Houses is not a progressive majority,” the editorial said.

John Walsh, a frequent contributor to *Counter Punch*—a liberal newsletter edited by Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair—blamed the Democrats for the disarray of the peace movement.

“Democrats retreat before Bush,” said Stewart Alexander, the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for California governor in 2006, in a June 11 article in *Banderas News*, an online publication.

In his new movie *Sicko,* director Michael Moore, a Democratic stalwart until recently, slams Hillary Clinton, the Democrats’ front-runner for next year’s presidential nomination, for being a leading recipient in campaign donations from health insurance companies, reported the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Moore also prominently posted on his web site a letter from Cindy Sheehan explaining why she could not support Clinton’s presidential bid. Sheehan has since announced her departure from the peace movement, explaining she came under harsh attacks by Democrats and their hangers-on after condemning their prowar stance along with the Republicans. Sheehan had staged sit-ins at Hillary Clinton’s office to protest the senator’s support for the Iraq war.

“Beyond ending the war,” the *Nation* said, “Democrats were elected because of popular rejection of corporate trade policies and the stench of corruption in Washington. Tom DeLay is gone, but the corporate lobbies just reloaded with Democrats.”

The editorial noted that senators from both parties came together to “deep-six” efforts to authorize Medicare to negotiate lower prescription-drug prices. Two bills that would remove a requirement that reproductive health-care centers also counsel abstinence to receive government funds have been stalled and have fewer sponsors this year than last.

The one bright spot liberals and labor officials point to is the first increase in the federal minimum wage in a decade.

Democrats attached domestic spending measures, including the minimum wage raise, to the war appropriations bill in a maneuver to gain Republican support. Democrats presented that bill as antiwar because it contained a time line to redeploy U.S. troops in Iraq out of combat roles. Bush vetoed it on May 1.

A second version that dropped redeployment time lines was passed with large bipartisan majorities in Congress and signed by Bush into law just before

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## Minneapolis event honors Ernesto Che Guevara



Militant/Christian Villarroal

MINNEAPOLIS—More than 50 people participated in a discussion here June 14 on the topic, “Che Lives: The Cuban Revolution Today and the Importance of Che’s Ideas for Latin America and the World Today.” Presentations on the revolutionary contributions of Ernesto Che Guevara were given by Jesús “Chucho” García, the founder of the Afro-Venezuelan Network; Yasmin Tovar, a leader of the Minnesota Venezuela Committee; and Tom Baumann from the Young Socialists.

**—REBECCA WILLIAMSON**

# *Moscow offers olive branch to U.S. gov’t on missile shield*

**BY BRIAN WILLIAMS**

June 16—One of the main developments at the June 6–8 summit of the Group of 8 in Heiligendamm, Germany, was a proposal by Russian president Vladimir Putin to cooperate with Washington in putting in place its “missile defense” system in Europe.

The G8 is comprised of the world’s most powerful imperialist states—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States—plus Russia.

Washington has been working out plans to place an anti-missile radar system in the Czech Republic and missile interceptors in Poland, arguing that this is necessary to counter warheads potentially launched from Iran. The worldwide anti-missile system Washington is putting together with its allies would actually provide the U.S. rulers with first strike nuclear capacity.

Putin had previously criticized Washington’s plans to place radar and interceptors in Eastern Europe. He threatened to point Russian missiles towards Europe for the first time since the end of the Cold War.

At a meeting with U.S. president George Bush at the G8 summit, however, Putin proposed that the United States use radar in Gabala, Azerbaijan, which is jointly operated by Russia, for its anti-missile system instead of building radar in the Czech Republic. Bush said the idea was “interesting,” while making clear Washington will go ahead with the Czech and Poland sites.

Stephen Hadley, U.S. national security adviser, said Putin’s proposal for use of the Azerbaijan radar base was a “contribution” to the broader system.

“The offer raised the prospect of unprecedented military cooperation between the U.S. and Russia,” noted Andrew Ward in a news analysis article in the June 8 *Financial Times*.

After the discussion with Bush at the summit, Putin also made clear that Moscow would no longer consider retargeting its missiles at European sites. Using the radar station in Azerbaijan, “will create necessary grounds for common work,” Putin told the *Washington Post*. He added that the U.S. anti-missile system would now be able to cover all of Europe “without exception.”




# The Militant

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# Closing of TV station by Venezuelan gov't sparks polarized mobilizations




Left: Naky Soto

**Left: June 6 protest in Caracas, Venezuela, against government denial of broadcast license for RCTV, a private station. Right: June 1 Caracas rally backing the move.**

**BY OLYMPIA NEWTON**

June 19—The owners of Venezuela's largest national television station, Radio Caracas de Television (RCTV), are organizing a pot-banging protest in Caracas tonight, part of their ongoing efforts to pressure the government to reinstate their broadcast license. The station was effectively closed by a government decision not to renew its license when it expired May 27.

The pot-banging—a traditional middle-class protest method in Latin America—is the latest in a series of actions in recent weeks in which thousands of Venezuelans, largely divided along class lines, have faced off in the streets of Caracas.

Sections of Venezuela's capitalist class have seized on the RCTV dispute to accuse the government headed by President Hugo Chávez of undermining press freedom to retaliate against political opponents. Thousands of students, overwhelmingly from Caracas's private universities, and many workers have joined street protests against the move. One of the main chants at these actions has been, "Listen Chávez, I want my soap opera, I want my [variety show] Rochela, I don't want a dictatorship."

Government supporters, in their majority workers and peasants, have countered these protests with their own mobilizations, pointing to RCTV's active efforts to destabilize the Chávez administration. But the move is less popular than other recent government decisions, such as bringing the oil industry under greater state control, which opened up political space for working people to strengthen their hand against the interests of local capitalists and their U.S. allies.

"A lot of people, including Chavistas, do not agree with this," Aijeah Valderama, a taxi driver in Caracas, told the *Militant* in a June 15 phone interview. "It's like Chávez is forcing you to watch things you don't want to watch."

The U.S. Senate issued a statement against the closure in May, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi warned the Venezuelan government that "efforts to suppress the media will . . . ultimately fail." U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice called for an investigation by the Organization of American States. Liberal groups like Reporters Without Borders have condemned the decision. The Georgia-based Carter Center issued a statement of concern over the RCTV dispute.

"President Chávez is totally right," Angel Sarmiento, a peasant who has been involved in land occupations in the rural state of Cojedes, told the *Militant* in a June 11 phone interview. "To me, this channel just represents the exploiters. To watch it you would never know about our struggles for land, or the realities that we live. For them, freedom of expression is the freedom to exploit."

While the decision effectively closed RCTV, the station has continued to broadcast through satellite and on the Internet via major Spanish-language stations in Colombia and Miami. The public frequency that used to belong to RCTV is now broadcasting a state-funded channel, Venezuelan Social Television (TVes). Pro-government community councils are organizing discussions in factories and working-class neighborhoods to discuss the character of programming on TVes.

Government officials have called the decision "a simple regulatory matter" and accused the opposition of using the student protests to prepare a "soft coup." At a May 30 press conference, members of the National Assembly released tapes of phone conversations between opposition leaders and RCTV officials, discussing their behind-the-scenes involvement in the student protests.

RCTV is one of several privately owned media that has been used consistently by the pro-imperialist opposition over the last five years in their efforts to oust the Chávez administration. Leading up to a short-lived U.S.-backed coup in 2002, such channels broadcast opposition calls for protests to topple the government.

When working people poured into the streets of Caracas to demand the return of Chávez and his ministers, who had been arrested by the top military brass, the private stations refused to carry any coverage of the popular mobilizations. They broadcast old movies and cartoons instead. The day after the coup, the morning show on the Venevision channel featured leaders of the coup effort and journalists congratulating each other.

Of the four major private TV stations in Venezuela, only RCTV and Globovision have maintained their level of anti-government programming. Another station, Venevision, toned down its anti-government slant after a 2004 meeting brokered by former U.S. president James Carter between Chávez and the owner of the station. The day RCTV's license expired, the government renewed Venevision's permit, but for five years instead of the 25 it sought.

"For decades these people have kidnapped the airwaves," Orlando Rafael Leon, a warehouse worker in the state of Anzoátegui, said in a June 15 phone interview. "What do they expect?" Leon passed the phone around to several of his coworkers, who all expressed similar opinions.

"This has opened a debate and discussion in which workers are discussing what kind of television we should have," María Cristina Martínez, a social communications student at the Bolivarian University in Caracas, told the *Militant* June 11.

Proceeding with such discussions, however, isn't so easy, according to Carlos Enrique Rangel, one of Leon's coworkers. "The supervisor here won't let us take the time at work to discuss the new station like we're supposed to," he said.

# U.S. troops launch brutal offensive in Iraq

**Continued from front page**

includes attack helicopters and armored fighting vehicles, is an indication that Washington is far from its goal of establishing a stable client regime in Baghdad. It is using military might, however, to push in that direction.

At a press conference three days earlier, Washington's top general in Iraq, David Petraeus, said major operations against al-Qaeda and other militias would begin now that all of the 30,000 additional U.S. troops have arrived. Washington started dispatching the troops four months ago, mainly to Baghdad and Anbar province.

The military escalation was announced by U.S. president George Bush in January. It was completed after the Democratic-led Congress gave its seal of approval by passing a $100 billion bill to fund the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The latest arrivals bring the total number of U.S. troops in Iraq to about 155,000, according to Petraeus.

Destruction of al-Qaeda "is the number one, bottom-line, up-front, in-your-face, task and purpose" of the offensive in Baquba said Brig. Gen. Mick Bednarek of the 25th Infantry Division. Residents of Baquba said heavy and continual explosions echoed around the city.

Petraeus said this new phase would build on the "shaping" operations of the past few months. The number of car bombings and sectarian killings has gone down, he said.

But as the new offensive opened, bombs exploded at a Shiite mosque killing at least 75 people and wounding 204. It was the latest in a series of tit-for-tat bombings of Shiite and Sunni mosques following the second bombing of the Shiite al-Askari mosque in Samara, north of Baghdad. Communal killings surged after the first bombing of that mosque a year ago. The war is led by Sunni and Shiite capitalists vying for control of the country's oil and other resources.

Petraeus also pointed to developments in Anbar and Diyala provinces where local Sunni leaders have turned against al-Qaeda because of its methods. Such methods include executing Sunnis who al-Qaeda accuses of collaborating with occupation forces, and shaking down merchants and other Sunni businessmen to raise funds. The U.S. military has begun to provide arms and funding to Sunni militias that have agreed to fight al-Qaeda and not attack U.S. and Iraqi government troops, reported Agence France- Presse. The U.S. military says al-Qaeda has moved its major operations from Anbar to Diyala in the wake of these shifting alliances.

The day before the Baquba offensive, the U.S. military carried out air strikes in Baghdad.

In southern Iraq intense fighting between Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army, a Shiite militia, and British and Iraqi government troops continued yesterday for a second day in Nasiriyah. The U.S. military also said British and Iraqi troops killed 20 members of a Shiite militia supported by Iran during fighting in and around Amara, capital of the Maysan province.

Latif al-Timimi, an Amara provincial council member, disputed the Pentagon's version of the fighting, saying 16 civilians were killed and 14 wounded. The U.S. military insisted those killed were responsible for smuggling powerful explosives from Iran and taking Iraqi fighters to Iran for training. Washington and its imperialist allies have accused Tehran of supplying such weapons and training to Shiite militias in Iraq.

In northern Iraq, Washington remains concerned that tensions between the Turkish government and the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government, which runs the semiautonomous region, could threaten stability in the most secure part of Iraq.

U.S. and Iraqi officials say that Turkish helicopters continue to enter northern Iraqi airspace in pursuit of guerillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, a Kurdish group that has fought for decades for sovereignty in Turkey.

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### ILLINOIS
**Chicago**
**The Crisis in the Middle East.** Speaker: Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 29. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *3557 S. Archer Ave. Tel.: (773) 890-1190.*

### IOWA
**Des Moines**
***¡Salud!* Cuba and the Battle for the Right to Health.** Sat., June 30. Dinner, 6:00 p.m.; program, 7:00 p.m. *3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 883-0797.*

### MINNESOTA
**Minneapolis**
**Showing of Documentary *With Babies and Banners.*** Fri., June 29. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation, $5 dinner, $5 program. *1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.*

### NEW JERSEY
**Newark**
**End Israeli Occupation of Palestine!** Speaker: Angel Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 29, 8:00 p.m. *168 Bloomfield Ave. 2nd floor. Tel.: (973) 481-0077.*

## CALENDAR

### GEORGIA
**Atlanta**
**Voices of Iraqi Workers Solidarity Tour.** Speakers: Faleh Abood Umara, general secretary, Southern Oil Company Union, Iraq Federation of Oil Unions; Hashmeya Muhsin Hussein, president, Electrical Utility Workers Union, General Federation of Iraqi Workers. June 27–28. Also visiting Washington, D.C., June 24–26. Sponsors include: U.S. Labor against the War; American Friends Service Committee. For more information, e-mail: www.uslaboragainstwar.org.

# Build U.S. Social Forum!

*This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.*

## *YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION*

**BY BEN O'SHAUGHNESSY**

June 19—"The U.S. Social Forum will be a great opportunity for young people and others involved in different struggles to come together and discuss our common experiences," said Ben Joyce, a member of the Young Socialists, in a telephone interview from Atlanta, where the nationwide gathering will take place.

"The Young Socialists will be here to share our recent experiences in the fight for immediate legalization of all undocumented immigrants and an end to the raids and deportations by *la migra*, the campaign to win freedom for the Cuban Five, the struggle against police brutality, and more."

The U.S. Social Forum will take place June 27–July 1. It will include students, activists in social protest movements, trade unionists, and others. There will be five days of workshops, plenary sessions, and informal discussions on a wide range of political questions.

Its six main themes include "Gulf Coast Reconstruction in the Post-Katrina Era"; "War, Militarism and the Prison Industrial Complex"; "Indigenous Voices: From the Heart of Mother Earth"; "Immigrant and Migrant Rights in a Global Society"; "Liberating Gender and Sexuality: Integrating Gender and Sexual Justice Across Our Movements"; and "Workers' Rights in the Global Economy."

Organizers expect more than 10,000 people to attend.

The Young Socialists are encouraging all to get involved and help build the Forum among fellow students, coworkers, friends, and anyone looking for the most effective way to fight to change the world into one based on human solidarity instead of the cutthroat competition and brutality of capitalism.

Young Socialists members from across the United States, as well as Socialist Workers Party members and supporters, will not only be attending. A number will get to Atlanta early to get the lay of the land, collaborate with local organizers in final preparations, and help make the Forum a political success.

"We have been to a number of meetings and activities here to help begin to build the Forum among young people, workers, and others," said Joyce. "Last night, the Young Socialists and other supporters of the *Militant* went to an immigrant rights vigil, where we sold nearly 65 copies of the paper and distributed information on the U.S. Social Forum. Later in the week, we will join in with others working on the Forum to get flyers out across Atlanta. We want to encourage everyone to join similar efforts across the country and to get here early to give us a hand."

For more information on registration and on getting involved in local efforts to build the event, visit *www.ussf2007.org* or contact the Young Socialists at *youngsocialists@mac.com*. In Atlanta you can also contact the Young Socialists at (404) 758-2151.




Militant photos by Bill Arth

**Participants in June 18 rally in Atlanta neighborhood in defense of immigrant rights.**

# Wide interest in U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta

**Continued from front page**

and Georgia State University, a campus of tens of thousands in the area where the Forum will be held.

On June 18, a leafleting team got a good response to Spanish-language materials on the U.S. Social Forum at an immigrant rights rally of several hundred people. The rally took place at the Plaza Fiesta mall, where large communities of immigrants from Central America and Asia shop. A number of workers present expressed the need for legalization for all.

Forum organizers are holding meet-and-greet events throughout the metropolitan area to build the Forum and sign up volunteers. Thirty people attended the most recent on June 14.

Elsewhere in the country, efforts are under way to build and organize participation in the Forum. About five dozen attended a June 14 meeting in New York City sponsored by *Left Turn* magazine. Individuals representing 35 social service organizations, political groups, and non-profit groups focused on childcare, gay rights, and immigrant rights took part.

At a picket outside the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, protesting recent raids by *la migra*, a dozen students from Evergreen State College in Olympia met up with people from Seattle planning to attend.

The U.S. Social Forum web site is regularly updated. Workshops listed there sponsored by a range of groups include, "Hawaii: 114 years resisting U.S. occupation"; "Building Bridges Among Gulf Coast Organizations"; "Linking Communities to Stop Border Militarization and Interior Raids/Deportations"; "India's Special Economic Zones—Impact and People's Responses"; "U.S. Economic Inequality and What We Can Do About It"; and "Protesting War Funding and Recruiters." These are just some of the more than 950 workshops that will be held in various locations around the city during the five-day gathering.

For more information, to register, and to get involved in efforts in your area to build the U.S. Social Forum, visit *www.ussf2007.org/*.

### Connecticut rally demands halt to 'la migra' raids




Militant/Dan Fein

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, June 16—"I am here to fight to put an end to these raids and attacks on immigrants. The way to end them is to give all of us papers that allow us to live and work in this country in peace," said María Pérez, who marched here today with three of her four children to demand an end to immigration raids in this city.

The action of about 800 included students and community, church, and political activists. Contingents of trade unionists from Yale University, UNITE HERE from Boston and New York, and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1199, also marched (see above) for two miles in the pouring rain through the largely Latino community of Fair Haven to City Hall, where a rally was held. Protesters demanded freedom for the 34 immigrant workers arrested June 6 and June 11 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

At least four immigrants grabbed by ICE were out on bond as of June 14; two others were expected to post bond that night. Most, however, are being held in federal custody in Boston and Greenfield, Massachusetts; Providence, Rhode Island; and Cumberland County, Maine.

Sponsors of the action included the Junta for Progressive Action, Unidad Latina en Acción, Association of Hispanic Evangelical Ministers of New Haven, UNITE HERE, SEIU Local 1199, SEIU 32BJ, Amistad Catholic Worker, and CT Center for a New Economy.

**—OLGA RODRIGUEZ**

# Atlanta rally: Free Black youth

**Continued from front page**

and ordered his immediate release.

As Wilson's family prepared to bring him home, however, State Attorney General Thurbert Baker blocked his release by announcing he would appeal the judge's ruling to the Georgia Supreme Court.

Protest organizers included the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), The People's Agenda, and several state legislators who are Black.

Several protesters noted they had supported Baker's campaign for attorney general. Baker is African American.

"Everybody is worried about themselves and their political position, not justice," B.J. Bernstein, Wilson's lawyer, told the rally.

At one point the crowd chanted, "Hey hey, ho ho, Thurbert Baker's got to go."

"We have no other alternative but to hit the streets," SCLC president Charles Steele said. "We must march for this issue, for this lack of justice, just like we marched for the 1965 Voting Rights bills. We are here for freedom for Genarlow Wilson."

Leon Richardson, an electrician for the Atlanta public schools, told the *Militant* he came to the protest after he heard about it on the radio. "It's a terrible injustice," he said. "As a 21-year veteran of the U.S. submarine force, I never thought I'd see a day like this, a positive young man's life snuffed. It's about trying to make a political statement more than the root cause. If anything, he should have been counseled or something."

## ON THE PICKET LINE

### *Pennsylvania: garment workers strike over hike in health costs*

PHILADELPHIA—Garment workers, members of UNITE HERE, struck three plants June 1 in the largest walkout in the garment industry in the Lehigh Valley in 50 years. About 500 workers at A&H Sportswear, International Women's Apparel, and Universal Sportswear, stood up to the bosses' demand for a hike in health insurance premiums with no raise in pay, and elimination of medical coverage for spouses. Workers said most sewing machine operators earn $8 per hour plus piece rate. Other workers, including those that have worked for years, often earn less.

The strike was settled June 6 when a new contract was approved by a vote of 313–95. The three-year agreement requires each worker to pay $12 a week for medical coverage. Families must now pay as much as $47 a week for their children and there is no coverage for spouses. Previously workers did not pay for those benefits. The agreement includes a one-time $500 bonus and a 2 percent pay raise in the second and third years.

"Personally, I'm disappointed because I'm a single mom," Wendy Paul, a worker at A&H Sportswear for the past six years, told *The Morning Call*. "I'm going from paying $50 a month to [$188 a month] for health insurance for me and my daughter. I'm screwed."

*—Ellen Berman*

### *Thousands of teachers in Mexico protest law cutting their pensions*

Thousands of teachers in Baja California in Mexico protested June 6 against a law that reduces pensions of teachers and other public sector workers. The demonstration, which protest leaders said included 15,000 to 20,000 people, wound through the streets of Tijuana and succeeded in blocking vehicular traffic into the United States at the San Ysidro port of entry for nearly three hours. The law forces teachers to work longer for retirement benefits that were previously guaranteed after 30 years of service. It also establishes private retirement accounts.

*—Brian Williams*




AP/ David Maung

**Teachers rally June 6 at San Ysidro border crossing to Mexico. Sign reads "D-I-68 preschool delegation completely rejects new law of the social security institute for state workers."**

# Australian gov't steps up intervention in Philippines

**BY RON POULSEN**

SYDNEY, Australia—The Australian and Philippine governments concluded a major military accord May 31. The Status of Forces Agreement was signed in Canberra during a brief visit by Philippines president Gloria Arroyo.

In recent years, Manila has begun extending its traditional close military links beyond Washington, the former colonial power. Canberra will now supply Manila with 28 fast assault boats and Australian special forces will train and exercise with Philippine troops as part of the U.S.-led "war on terrorism."

The Philippine constitution prohibits the presence of foreign troops without a treaty. Earlier this year, Washington signed a similar pact with Manila, codifying greater direct U.S. military intervention in the country.

Large-scale exercises between Australian and Philippine troops are now planned. The *Sydney Morning Herald* called them "a boost to Australia's counter-terrorism presence in the region."

Arroyo said the pact would "help us to modernize and professionalize our armed forces. It will help us to have interoperability of all our forces in the fight against terrorism." This fits with the push by imperialist powers to transform their militaries into leaner and more agile forces that can move to theaters of battle quickly.

The A$4 million gunboats Canberra is providing have global positioning navigation and can ferry six soldiers across shallow water at speeds of up to 60 mph. They will be used in marshes and rivers on the southern island of Mindanao to target "terrorist" groups and Muslim separatist movements, and elsewhere against rebel guerrilla fighters.

Later in the evening after the pact was signed, 90 protesters picketed a business dinner Arroyo was attending in Melbourne. "Stop the killings in the Philippines," they demanded, referring to military repression there. They also protested the new Canberra-Manila pact.

The same day, another protest took place outside the Australian Embassy in Manila calling for "Hands Off the Philippines!" A Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Labor Center) news release opposed Australian forces aiding the suppression of "legitimate organizations in the Philippines that are waging a struggle to free the country from foreign intervention."

"Since 2001, 838 persons have been victims of extra-judicial killings, while hundreds more have been abducted and made to disappear," the statement said. The Philippine military is heavily implicated in the bloodshed.

# *Three Iowa Swift workers get jail terms, face deportation*

**BY JOE SWANSON**

DES MOINES, Iowa—Three workers arrested in the immigration raid at the Swift meatpacking plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, were sentenced in June in federal court here.

Lorena Andrade Rodríguez, 34, and Eloisa Núñez Galena, 32, were sentenced together on June 4. Rodríguez was given 25 months in a federal prison and Núñez was slapped with time served and immediate deportation. Both workers have been held in jail since the raid on December 12.

Andrade and Núñez were charged with four counts of identity theft. Each carries a six-month sentence. Andrade received a longer sentence because she was also charged with "aggravated identity theft," which has a mandatory 24-month sentence.

On June 8, a third worker arrested in the raid at Swift, Norma González Hernández, 29, was found guilty of five counts of identity theft and sentenced to 24 months.

The handcuffed workers were led into court by U.S. Marshals, and dressed in black and white striped prison uniforms. At the June 4 hearing, four U.S Marshals, and three Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cops were present in the courtroom during the sentencing.

Nearly 1,300 workers at six Swift plants in Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, and Utah were rounded up and thrown in jail last year. More than half of them have been deported.

All three workers were born in Mexico. Andrade's two children, Andrea 7, and Elizabeth 14, attended the sentencing. Andrade addressed the court, through an interpreter, and explained that her daughters' father had been deported to Mexico. "My daughters live with relatives for now but I am their only support," she said. "I have lived and worked for 12 years in the United States and have not committed any crimes. I only worked to provide food and housing. My children need their mother."

No member of Andrade's family was allowed to speak to her during the proceedings. Andrade's attorney, Michael Said, requested that she be allowed to speak with her children before being sent to prison. The request was denied.

Said asked for "compassion from the court" before the sentencing. "There is no legal way to immigrate in the short term unless you have a high level of education and skills or are wealthy," he said. "Lorena came to this country for no other reason than to provide a better life for her young children."

Andrade and González were told by the sentencing judges that they should anticipate being deported immediately after serving their terms. All three workers, the judges said, will get a harsher sentence if they return to the United States without government authorization. The court also fined the workers: Andrade, $100; Núñez, $400; and González $500. Andrade and González plan to appeal, Said said.

Renato González, brother of Norma González Hernández, attended the sentencing with three other relatives. He still works at Swift. The government doesn't want "to take all of us because employers need us here to work," he told the *Militant*. "They arrest a few to make us all afraid. What they do is very unjust."

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
**THE MILITANT**
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

**July 2, 1982**

The U.S. Navy has ordered a task force of 50 warships in the eastern Mediterranean to be ready for possible "rescue" operations in Lebanon.

This coincides with the Israeli regime's decision to break its latest "ceasefire"—the June 22 one—as Israeli planes, tanks, and artillery attacked Syrian positions just south of the Beirut-Damascus highway on June 23.

All signs point to a decision by the Zionist regime to go into western Beirut in an attempt to drive out the thousands of Palestinian combatants who are lodged there.

Israeli armed forces have been regularly bombarding Palestinian refugee camps and civilian neighborhoods in western Beirut.

**THE MILITANT**
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

**July 1, 1957**

The Negro people in the South are determined to win the right to vote. They are organized and are proceeding with mass actions to insure this right. Their determination and their confidence that the fight will be won is the basic reason that civil rights has become a national issue during this session of Congress.

In Tuskegee, Alabama, the Negro citizens have organized a mass protest against a move to deprive them of the vote. The State Legislature has passed a bill reducing the city limits of Tuskegee to exclude all Negro residential areas.

The Negroes responded with an economic boycott and mass protest meetings.




**July 2, 1932**

William Z. Foster, Communist candidate for president of the U.S. who was arrested on July 28th in Los Angeles, while attempting to speak in a protest demonstration, was released the next day on the grounds of lack of evidence to charge him with criminal syndicalism.

The meeting at which Foster was arrested was called to protest the prohibition of a meeting where he was billed to speak and which was to protest the shooting of an unemployed worker by Captain Hynes police thugs.

Hynes had to let Foster go for the reason that he wanted to "keep peace in the city." The real reason is of course that it is not so easy to arrest presidential candidates even though they may happen to be Communists.

# UN committee backs Puerto Rico's right to self-determination

BY RÓGER CALERO

UNITED NATIONS, June 14—The UN Special Committee on Decolonization held hearings here today on the colonial status of Puerto Rico. By the end of the day, it adopted by consensus a resolution cosponsored by the governments of Cuba and Venezuela calling for an end to U.S. colonial rule of Puerto Rico.

The document calls on Washington to "expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence," and requests that the General Assembly consider the question in all its aspects.

"It is impossible to hide that our country is the last major colony in the entire world," said Paula Santiago from the New York chapter of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico. She was one of the more than 20 people who testified, most of them from Puerto Rico, backing the resolution.

Many of the speakers provided facts highlighting the colonial reality of Puerto Rico, and how Washington has denied the Puerto Rican people their right to self-determination and independence since it took over the island in the 1898 Spanish-American war.

A handful of people spoke for the current commonwealth status or for making Puerto Rico the 51st U.S. state.

Ismael Guadalupe, a member of Desobedientes del Este de Vieques (Eastern Vieques Civil Disobedience), was among the speakers. His group is fighting to take back the lands formerly occupied by the U.S. Navy on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, and force the U.S. government to decontaminate the area it polluted and pay reparations for the damage caused by tons of explosives and radioactive material left by the Navy.

"We have not gotten justice," said Guadalupe. He described how more than 52 percent of the land formerly occupied by the U.S. Navy is now under control of the federal government. He noted that only 4,000 acres of this land have been placed in the hands of the municipal government, and that a big part of the rest are in the hands of big landowners. "Our people have not given up their lands," said Guadalupe.

In 2003, in face of sustained mobilizations by fishermen, farmers, workers, and other Vieques residents, the Navy was forced to leave and abandon control of the area it used for target practice and other military exercises. But only a small portion of this land has been turned over to working people in Vieques, many of whom were its original owners, Guadalupe pointed out.

Other speakers called on Washington to immediately cease the harassment, incarceration, and murder of independence fighters, trade unionists, and others opposed to U.S. colonial rule. A number demanded the immediate and unconditional release of Puerto Rican independence fighters locked up in U.S. prisons—Oscar López Rivera, Carlos Alberto Torres, Haydée Beltrán Torres, and José Pérez González.

In his closing remarks, Cuba's UN ambassador, Rodrigo Malmierca, noted that for the first time the resolution explicitly requests that the colonial status of Puerto Rico be taken up by the UN General Assembly. The decolonization committee has reaffirmed in 25 resolutions or decisions Puerto Rico's right to self-determination. All have been ignored by Washington.

"For Cuba, the adoption of this resolution is highly relevant, considering our long-standing commitment to the self-determination and independence of the brotherly Puerto Rican people," said Malmierca. "The Puerto Rican people can always count on our unconditional solidarity."

The representatives of Iran, Syria, Venezuela, and of the Non-Aligned Movement also spoke in favor of the resolution.

Those speaking for independence included Fernando Martín of the Puerto Rican Independence Party; Julio Muriente of the Hostos National Independence Movement; Wilma Reverón of the Puerto Rico Committee at the UN; Ben Ramos of the ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; and Argiris Malapanis of the Socialist Workers Party (see below).

After the hearing, ProLibertad hosted a forum at Hunter College attended by 40 people to continue discussion on the issues presented by the pro-independence delegation at the UN.



Militant/Róger Calero

**Panel of speakers at June 14 meeting at Hunter College after hearing of UN Committee on Decolonization. From left: Manuel Rodríguez, of the Socialist Front; Pedro Colón, Socialist Workers Movement; Betty Brassel, United for Vieques; Ben Ramos (speaking), ProLibertad; Argiris Malapanis, Socialist Workers Party; Paula Santiago, Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico; and Enrique Baquero, Puerto Rican Democratic Action Foundation.**

## 'Puerto Rico's independence in interest of U.S. toilers'

*The following is the presentation Argiris Malapanis gave on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party at the June 14 hearing of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization on the status of Puerto Rico.*

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

UNITED NATIONS, June 14—I join with others here today calling on Washington to immediately release all Puerto Rican independence fighters locked up in U.S. prisons. They are among the longest-held political prisoners in the world. Like the Cuban Five—revolutionaries railroaded by Washington and convicted on frame-up charges that include "conspiracy to commit espionage"—their real crime is fighting for their country's sovereignty. I say free Oscar López Rivera, Carlos Alberto Torres, Haydée Beltrán Torres, and José Pérez González. Free them unconditionally, now! And free the Cuban Five!

Others before me have demonstrated that Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony. They have explained why independence is a necessity for the people of Puerto Rico, if they are to freely determine their own future.

I'd like to add that a successful fight for Puerto Rico's independence is in the interests of the vast majority of the people of the United States too. Workers, farmers, and other exploited producers have absolutely no interest in the colonial rule of Puerto Rico by the U.S. government.

As long as Puerto Rico remains a U.S. colony, the fighting capacity and solidarity of the working-class movement in this country is weakened.

Capitalist politicians here always talk about "We Americans." But there is not one America. There are two Americas. That of the bosses, a tiny minority, and that of working people, the vast majority. Working people in the U.S. have no common interests with the owners of General Motors, Boeing, Cargill, ExxonMobil, Pfizer, Merck, Chase, Coca-Cola, or Wal-Mart—or their political representatives in Washington, the Democrats and Republicans—that do profit from the colonial domination of Puerto Rico. Instead we have everything in common with fellow working people around the world—from China to Mexico and Puerto Rico.

The U.S. government has used Puerto Rico as a springboard for launching assaults on countries around the world—from its invasion of Grenada in 1983 to the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999 to the invasion and occupation of Iraq. The latter is one of the many theaters of Washington's "war on terrorism," which include Afghanistan, Iran, and Korea. This war targets any government that doesn't bow to U.S. dictates. It is a war ultimately aimed at the livelihoods and rights of working people—as shown by the abuse, torture, and violation of elementary human rights of prisoners held by the U.S. government at the Guantánamo naval base, on territory held forcibly by Washington against the wishes of the Cuban people. This "war on terrorism" is against the interests of the vast majority of the people of the United States and the world. The U.S. government continues to use Puerto Rican youth as cannon fodder in its imperialist wars. The successful 60-year-long struggle by the Puerto Rican people to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques helped educate millions about these realities.

Puerto Rico's colonial domination reinforces systematic discrimination, racist prejudice, and cop brutality faced by 2.7 million Puerto Ricans here, along with Blacks and other oppressed nationalities. As long as Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony, Puerto Ricans will be subjected to second-class status in the United States.

The ongoing incarceration of the four Puerto Rican *independentistas*, like the unjust imprisonment of the Cuban Five, is another case of turning the victim into the criminal. The U.S. government is trying to do the same against the undocumented immigrants here, estimated at 12 million today. These workers have become a growing and weighty section of the U.S. working class. They are drawn into the United States from Mexico, and other countries plundered by imperialism, in order to provide a pool of superexploited labor to satisfy the bosses' profit greed. But millions have marched, going on the first nationwide political strike in U.S. history on May 1 last year and turning out half a million strong on May Day this year, to demand legalization of all the undocumented. Their banner, "We are workers, not criminals!" mirrors the demands of Puerto Rican independence fighters. Hundreds of thousands of working people in the United States leading struggles for legalization and against raids and deportations are the biggest obstacle to Washington's plunder of the world's land and labor, and thus the most important aid to the Puerto Rican peoples' freedom struggle.

In face of a capitalist economic depression most of humanity faces—including unceasing assaults on the wages, job safety, and living conditions of a majority of the people of this country—the U.S. rulers, who live off the labor and resources of millions around the world, have the gall to tell the Puerto Rican people they have no choice but to depend on Washington, that independence would bring them only ruin.

But the living, fighting example the workers and farmers of Cuba and their revolutionary leadership have set proves that it is possible to fight and win genuine independence from U.S. imperialism. It takes a socialist revolution to do so. The Cuban Revolution points the way forward for working people around the world, including in the United States.

The condemnation by this committee of Washington's colonial rule of Puerto Rico will serve the interests of the overwhelming majority of the people of the United States and those fighting everywhere for the right to self-determination and against oppression—from Kurdistan to Palestine to Western Sahara and Kosova.

Thank you Ms. Chairwoman, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to present these views before you today.

# Communist League in U.K. holds special congress

## Changes in working class under impact of immigration at center of discussion

**BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN**

LONDON—"Before us is a battle for the labor movement, for class solidarity and consciousness," said Pete Clifford, in the political report to a special congress of the Communist League (CL) in the United Kingdom held here June 2–3. Clifford, a meat worker, is a member of the league's Central Committee and its Edinburgh branch.

"The working class in the United Kingdom is being transformed as hundreds of thousands of young workers from Eastern Europe settle here," Clifford explained. Since May 1, 2004, when nationals of eight countries joining the European Union (EU) got job access, 640,000 workers have registered for work in the United Kingdom, some 70 percent of them from Poland. "The new arrivals have spread throughout the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland. In the Republic of Ireland, 10 percent of the population is foreign born."

The working class in Scotland is changing beyond recognition. Taking into account unofficial estimates, the proportion of the population that is immigrant in Scotland has expanded from 3.3 percent in 2004 to about 6.2 percent in 2007. "When I started at Halls," Clifford noted, "workers at the meat factory were overwhelmingly from the United Kingdom. Today they're majority Eastern European."

The Eastern European workers joined a successful union action when the bosses moved to undermine a union overtime ban, Clifford reported. At Dawn Meats in Bedford, England, Polish workers joined a protest against changed conditions. "This is a glimpse of how these workers will be drawn into union resistance and social struggles," he said.

"The bosses use the foreign born as they drive to depress wages and conditions, speed up production, introduce flexibility, and pit worker against worker," the CL leader said. "Over 80 percent are aged 18–34 and just 7 percent have dependents—just what the bosses need."

Members of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee and Confederation of British Industry recently attributed a decline in real earnings over the last year to immigration.

"These workers are tricked into anticipating a good life and livelihood here," Clifford said. "They've met a different reality. Half are working temporary jobs or are agency workers with inferior wages and conditions; 75 percent earn less than £6 per hour [£1=US$1.98]. At a strike at the Grampian poultry plant in Cambuslang, Scotland, the company bused agency workers from Eastern Europe across the picket line." Agency workers are sent to factories or other workplaces by temporary job agencies. They face inferior conditions and wages and can be fired by the boss at any time.

The government placed restrictions on workers from Romania and Bulgaria when these countries joined the EU in January. "They're not keeping immigrants out," Clifford said. "They want them in, but insecure." They're cutting translation facilities to force immigrants to 'learn English' and a minister has proposed that 'British families' get priority over immigrants in council housing [public housing]."

London delegate Julie Crawford, a worker at the Hygrade sausage factory in London, where many workers are from Africa, spoke about raids and other anti-immigrant probes. "The labor movement needs to stand with the foreign-born when the bosses talk about 'investigating National Insurance [social security] irregularities' as happens where I work," she said. She reported that five workers at the plant subscribe to the *Militant* and they and others have bought 20 books and pamphlets on revolutionary working-class politics this year.

Edinburgh delegate Caroline Bellamy, a garment worker, reported on a Transport and General Workers Union (T&G) immigrant worker recruitment meeting that drew 100.

"Behind the trade union officials' welcome, often lies a chauvinist stance," Clifford warned. He cited anti-immigrant comments by Ron Webb, national secretary of the T&G section of the newly formed union Unite, during a strike at the Tesco distribution center in Livingston, Scotland. Webb branded as "substandard labor" Eastern Europeans who crossed the picket line. "Such a course pushes foreign-born workers away from the unions and fosters anti-immigrant prejudice among the U.K.-born," said Clifford

Clifford outlined the consequences for the Communist League's activity today before the outbreak of the gigantic social struggles that will make possible the transformation of the unions into fighting instruments. "We must see this not as the 'immigration question' but rather as the labor question," he said. "We fight for class solidarity in the face of the divisions set by the bosses. The *Militant* is a key weapon in this activity. This is important for communists and the broader working-class vanguard."

The labor question is at the center of politics in this country as the rulers push to reverse British capitalism's decline, Clifford said. "Prime minister in waiting, Gordon Brown, has signaled more attacks on the social wage with his 'education is my passion, health is my priority' comments," he noted.

Brown takes over from Anthony Blair June 27. "He will continue Blair's overall course," Clifford said, "including the 'special relationship' with the United States, which the British rulers consider key to defending their interests on a world scale." Brown has stated that British troops will remain in Iraq. London continues to lead NATO forces in Afghanistan. "The rulers face a challenge from their European competitors,

**Continued on page 8**

### Public forums in London surround CL congress



Militant/Alex Xezonakis

LONDON, June 1—Alyson Kennedy, a former leader of the Co-Op miners' two-year-long union organizing battle in Huntington, Utah, addresses a Militant Labour Forum here today on "Immigration, labour, and the class struggle in the United States" on the eve of the Communist League's congress here. Forty-four people attended the forum. At a similar forum the following week, 30 people came to hear Communist League leader Jonathan Silberman report on the congress.

**—TONY HUNT**

# *Natives in Canada call National Day of Action*

**BY MARK GRIEVE AND JOHN STEELE**

TORONTO—The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has called a National Day of Action for June 29 to "put an end to First Nations poverty as the greatest social injustice in Canada." The AFN is the main organization that speaks for Native people in Canada.

Actions across the country will include a march of solidarity in Ottawa. The AFN call describes the protest "as an opportunity for First Nations and Canadians to stand together in a spirit of unity to support a better life for all First Nations peoples."

The government's failure to address outstanding land claims has compelled some Native leaders to promise widespread economic disruption this summer. Chief Terry Nelson of the Roseau River First Nation announced May 14 plans to blockade the rail line connecting eastern and western Canada on June 29. "If [the rail companies] take a confrontational attitude and start throwing lawsuits around, clearly this could escalate and very likely end up in a monthlong blockade," he said.

Last April, Bay of Quinte Mohawks at Deseronto, Ontario, blockaded Canadian National and Via Rail lines for 30 hours, stopping freight and passenger traffic on Canada's busiest rail corridor to press their land claims. They were protesting the slowness of negotiations with the federal government over the 950-acre Culbertson Land Tract granted to the Six Nations in 1793. The Six Nations is the confederacy of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) tribes to which the Mohawks belong. The Mohawks insist that the tract was illegally taken from them in 1832.

While not endorsing civil disobedience, AFN Grand Chief Phil Fontaine said peaceful talks have not produced results. "We are starting to question the so-called rational process because it does not work," he said. AFN chiefs have called on CN rail and Canadian Pacific Railway to voluntarily shut down operations on June 29, which CN bosses have rejected.

The National Day of Action is being fueled by the conditions the 1.3 million Native people in Canada face. These include grinding poverty on and off reservations, victimization in the prison system, and police brutality. Unresolved land claims on resource-rich land and areas slated for urban development have skyrocketed from 250 in 1993 to more than 800 today.

Also fueling the protest is a report released May 31 from a public inquiry into the 1995 murder of unarmed Native activist Dudley George during a land reclamation protest at Ipperwash Provincial Park in Ontario. The report placed partial responsibility for the cop killing on then Ontario premier Michael Harris. It revealed that Acting Sergeant Ken Deane shot and killed George only hours after Harris told cabinet ministers, "I want those f___ Indians out of the park."

Referring to the possibility of rail blockades, federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice said such actions will "dissipate the goodwill that exists towards aboriginal people in Canada."

In five editorials on the National Day of Action the *Globe and Mail*, Canada's main national English-language daily, echoed these threats. It accused AFN leaders of "aboriginal hooliganism" for asking rail bosses to stop operations June 29. "The AFN is playing an irresponsible game," said the May 26 editorial. "It has in effect chosen to fly the warrior's flag legitimizing what in all likelihood will end in illegal acts as native hotheads don military apparel and roll the old school buses onto the tracks."

"Since Ipperwash, no government and no police force has had the stomach for confronting native protesters whose tactics are becoming more daring," the *Globe* said June 1, calling for "upholding the rule of law in a sober, professional fashion."

On June 12 Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper announced impending legislation he claimed would "revolutionize" the Native land claims process. The bill is to be cowritten with the AFN and, if passed, would create a new tribunal staffed by judges that would make binding rulings when negotiations fail. Under the current system, where Ottawa acts as the defendant, judge, and jury, the average claim takes 13 years to be dealt with.

Harper's announcement "doesn't change one thing," said Janie Jamieson, a spokesperson for the Six Nations members who have been part of the land occupation in Caledonia since February 2006. "It doesn't settle anything. It doesn't give me hope."

# Marxism, science, and women's fight for equality

*Below is an excerpt from* Sexism and Science *one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month in July. The excerpt is from an exchange between Evelyn Reed and Howard Haymes then a professor of education at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Reed is the author of many works on the origins of women's oppression and the fight for their liberation. She joined the socialist movement in 1940 and was a leading member of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States until her death in 1979. Copyright © 1978 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*




Militant/Rollande Girard

**Rally in downtown Chicago May 30 to protest moves to enforce a 1995 state law requiring parental notification for minors seeking abortion.**

## *BOOKS OF THE MONTH*

**BY EVELYN REED**

Liberals and other fair-minded men do not object to the feminist movement—providing women restrict themselves to activities on such practical issues as equal rights, conduct themselves in a ladylike manner, and above all avoid controversial theorizing on the source of female oppression and its solution. Howard Haymes is one of these well-intentioned men who has the best interests of the women's movement at heart and gives his advice accordingly.

He surveys the galaxy of feminist writers who have articulated the problems and prospects for liberation over the past few years and finds cause for dissatisfaction. The women are too frank in their criticisms of sexist men and politics, and even of other feminists with whom they disagree. They engage in strident debates among themselves on the roots of male supremacy and female inferiority without consulting any male advisers and with no visible loss of solidarity as feminists. He deplores the "alienation" of New Left women from their men because the blemish of male chauvinism persists among them. But he is most distressed by the widespread influence of Engels and his Marxist followers upon the thinking of the movement.

Not only radical feminists but even more conservative writers, Haymes complains, have adopted Engels's thesis that women are exploited and oppressed by capitalist society. Whether or not they call themselves Marxists, the result is a "veritable verbal bombardment" of capitalism at the hands of these women liberationists. Moreover, he warns, this is not mere leftist rhetoric; it involves serious consideration of the socialist solution to fully eradicate the oppression of women. As Haymes puts it, "clearly collectivist solutions are freely and frequently mentioned" by the feminists.

No less disturbing to Haymes is the mounting feminist interest in anthropology in order to learn about the position of women in primitive society before they became the oppressed sex. According to [Lewis] Morgan and other evolutionary founders of the science in the last century, ancient society was matriarchal and collectivist. Women, far from being inferior, played a leadership role and held an esteemed position. These findings, and the full conclusions to be drawn from them, were set forth by Engels in his book *Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State.* He showed how anthropological data confirmed the Marxist theory on the class roots of female oppression from slavery through feudalism to contemporary capitalism. . . .

Opposition to Marxism in politics and to evolutionism in anthropology are not new; they have been rife ever since the two branches of science were born in the last century. What is new in the present situation is the women's upsurge, barely six years old, and the impact these two sciences have already had upon this expanding movement. Women are reopening and reinvestigating social and historical questions that have long been declared by academic authorities—mostly male—as conclusively settled and no longer debatable.



# Communist League holds congress in U.K.

**Continued from page 7**

with German chancellor Angela Merkel and French president Nicolas Sarkozy shifting their foreign policy toward Washington."

The Blair administration has notched up a success in Northern Ireland, Clifford said, "in the Paisley-McGuinness coalition government." Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, is first minister and Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness is deputy first minister in the devolved administration. "The Communist League continues to demand unity and independence for Ireland, and the immediate withdrawal of British troops," Clifford said.

"At the same time, we must anticipate that the class question will come to the fore," said London delegate and Central Committee member Tony Hunt, describing capitalist development in Ireland. "This trend is magnified by immigration. The new arrivals' first concerns are wages, jobs, and living conditions," Hunt said.

"We see a similar development in Quebec," said Michel Prairie, a fraternal delegate from the Communist League in Canada. "Language discrimination against French-speaking Quebecois has been at the heart of the national question. Many new immigrants settling in Quebec are not French speaking. They consider they have come to Canada. The labor movement faces the same opportunities and challenges in forging working-class unity."

Delegates heard Alex Xezonakis, a fraternal delegate from the Young Socialists, report on work of the communist movement in Britain in defense of the Cuban Five. These are Cuban revolutionaries, framed-up by Washington on charges that include "conspiracy to commit espionage" for Havana, who are serving draconian sentences in U.S. prisons.

Delegates adopted the political report and decided to reinforce the league's Edinburgh branch. They also elected a Central Committee, half of whose members were not on the previous committee.

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## EDITORIAL

# Oppose U.S.-led 'war on terror'!

With the blessing of the Democratic-majority Congress, the Bush administration has completed the troop increase in Iraq it announced in January—the biggest escalation of the imperialist war since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. The military offensive U.S. forces and their allies launched in Baquba and other parts of Iraq this week is what the top U.S. general in Iraq, David Petraeus, had promised when the Senate unanimously confirmed him earlier this year.

The imperialist war in Iraq, however, is just one front in Washington's multi-theater "war on terrorism" that the U.S. rulers have promised will last decades. Under this banner, U.S. forces are engaged in operations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and even Europe. The target: any government that does not bend to their dictates, and ultimately working people; the cannon fodder: workers and farmers of the world.

More than 2,400 civilians, militia members, and troops have died in Afghanistan so far this year, where NATO forces are currently involved in intensified fighting. Washington continues its campaign of pressures and threats against Iran. It is leading its imperialist allies in Asia to expand the theaters of "antiterrorism" there, including through greater collaboration with the Australian rulers in the Philippines. In Africa, U.S. Special Forces engineered the toppling of an Islamic government in Somalia, and Washington—with liberal forces leading the campaign—is pressing for greater imperialist intervention in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The "war on terrorism" extends from the former Soviet republics of Central Asia—such as Uzbekistan, where U.S. troops first established a base in 2001 in preparation for the Afghanistan war; to Eastern Europe, where Washington is placing components of its missile shield allegedly to stop missiles from Iran; to the Balkans, where the U.S. rulers are cynically manipulating the Albanian peoples' just demands for self-determination in Kosova as part of the imperialist drive to reestablish capitalism in that part of the world.

Washington's "war on terror" is about one thing and one thing only: the expansion of the profits of the tiny minority of capitalists and landlords that rule the United States and much of the world. Their imperialist wars abroad go hand in hand with their unrelenting offensive against the wages, safety, and living conditions of working people at home. Workers and farmers in the United States, and toilers around the world—the vast majority of humanity—have every interest in opposing the U.S.-led "war on terror" everywhere.

That's why working people should demand unconditional withdrawal now of U.S. and allied troops, not only from Iraq, but from Afghanistan; the Balkans; Djibouti; Darfur; Eastern Europe; Guantánamo Bay, Cuba; Korea; the Philippines; Somalia, and beyond! No to threats against Iran and north Korea; lift the sanctions! Not one penny or person for Washington's wars!

# N.Y. day laborers win hiring hall

**Continued from front page**

told the *Militant*. The settlement "can't be seen as an isolated thing. It has to do with getting the federal government to give us papers."

"This agreement should be made by other towns," said Fabian Chimbo, 26, a carpenter from Ecuador.

Durán and Chimbo were waiting for work at the new hiring site for day laborers at the Strait Gate Church. The site opened the day after the settlement was ratified by the Board of Trustees. "Hire Workers," reads a sign outside the church, inviting contractors and others to stop.

The church is one in a handful with a majority Black congregation associated with day laborer hiring sites, according to Pablo Alvarado, director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network.

"It is an unusual gesture, and it's a beautiful one, particularly because we know there have been tensions between African Americans and Latinos in places where they compete against one another for these types of jobs," Alvarado told the *New York Times*.

The 1,500 church members come from nearby towns, and as far as Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York City, said Howard Coke, 46. Coke is a churchgoer who volunteers at the hiring hall during his time off from work as a food servicing manager.

Many of the day laborers waiting for work at street corners here told the *Militant* the cops still drive by where they are at, but they don't stop to harass them as they used to do.

# 'Honeymoon is over,' many liberals say

**Continued from page 2**

Memorial Day. Many of the domestic spending measures were included in the legislation.

Sixty days after signing the bill the minimum wage is to increase from $5.15 an hour to $5.85. A year later it will rise to $6.55, and in 2009 it will be $7.25.

The minimum wage has not been raised in nine years. Today it is 31 percent of the average hourly wage in the United States, the lowest level since 1947. The real minimum wage, adjusted for inflation, has been declining for some time and is now 30 percent lower than it was in 1979, according to the Economic Policy Institute. With the $2.10 hourly increase by 2009, a full-time minimum-wage worker would still earn some $2,000 below the current federal poverty line for a family of three.

These conclusions, however, don't seem to derail many disillusioned liberals and middle-class radicals from lesser-evil politics and their commitment to elect "better" Democrats.

"The new majorities aren't the sterling champions some had hoped for, but they aren't the knaves we booted out either," said the *Nation* editorial. "The serial disappointments of recent weeks are but a reminder that we've got work to do."

## LETTERS

### Working class was 'wind'

I appreciated Larry Quinn's review of the Ken Loach film *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* (June 11 issue).

You might come away from the film, though, thinking that British premier Lloyd George's threat of a new war—the excuse for the capitulation of the Irish bourgeois nationalist forces at the close of the 1919–21 Irish Civil War—was insurmountable.

But London was not in good shape to carry through its threats. It had come out of World War I declining as the world's dominant imperialist power. The working class in the United Kingdom was getting stronger with the workers upsurge on the Clyde in 1919—a foretaste of the 1926 General Strike. The Communist International had been formed, spawning parties based on the Bolshevik example.

Referring to the film, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams called the Irish Republican Army, "the wind that shook the barley." But this doesn't reach the heart of the matter. It was the mass mobilization of workers and farmers from 1919 to 1921 that truly shook London. Forging a proletarian leadership out of that was what was needed to reap the harvest. But it was not to be.

*Pete Clifford*
*Edinburgh, Scotland*

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

# Oregon raid

**Continued from front page**

at the plant in two shifts, but it looked like only about 50 workers were there today. One worker said the company eliminated the second shift after the raid.

The arrested workers had been making $7.80 per hour, Oregon's minimum wage.

Relatives and friends of those arrested were coming and going into the plant to retrieve personal belongings and cars left at the plant parking lot after the arrests. A number of workers leaving said they had just started that week as temporary employees.

Workers in several cars gave thumbs up when they saw the signs *Militant* supporters carried, which read, "Stop the raids; legalization now!" But the reaction at the plant gate was polarized. A truck driver, for example, responded differently to the same sign. "I think all the illegals should be deported," he said. "They just take our jobs."

Near the plant reactions from residents were also mixed.

"My brother-in-law was arrested and he doesn't even work at the plant," said Ida Monroy. "He was there talking to one of the workers when the raid took place. He's been here over 20 years and has three children. I'm helping take care of them."

"I'll go," Monroy said when she heard a protest action may take place here next weekend.

Glen Daniel, a retired worker who is Black, said some of his neighbors had not been home since the raid. "I don't think it's right, what they did to those people," he said. "They're trying to help themselves, working like dogs to help their families."

A worker at a local Mexican food store, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of persecution by the government, said his aunt was picked up at the plant. They let her go because she is a single parent with three children, he said. They put a tracking bracelet on her ankle pending a hearing on her status.

Guadeloupe, who didn't want her last name used for similar reasons, said her husband had been picked up earlier in the year at another plant. She had to pay a $3,500 bond to get him released pending an immigration hearing in November. She said lawyers are not willing to take the case because it is "unwinable," except for one attorney who wants $5,000 up-front with no guarantees.

An immigrant from Panama, however, who also asked to remain anonymous, said she agreed with the raids. "I saved money for me and my sister to come to this country," she said. "People should do it the right way to get here legally."

Last August, Del Monte had been forced to pay out $400,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by eight former workers employed by another temporary agency, Quality Manual Labor Inc. The workers sued both companies for violating state law by firing them for raising safety concerns, withholding overtime pay, and doing away with break periods. Del Monte then replaced this agency with American Staffing Resources before the settlement. At the Tacoma protest today, relatives and friends of those detained joined demonstrators after visiting time ended. Most of the protesters were young. They included students and members of Hate Free Zone, Washington Community Action Network, and Sin Fronteras, a Portland-based group.

The rightist Minutemen withdrew before the protest ended.

*Carmen Maymi-O'Reilly and Cecelia Moriarity contributed to this article*

### Correction

The article "Socialist workers build party convention" in the June 25 issue incorrectly said the 20th anniversary of the assassination of Burkina Faso leader Thomas Sankara is in November. Sankara was assassinated on Oct. 15, 1987. Many of the planned events around this anniversary will occur in October, not November.